

Want To Get Away?

I. Intro Communion: (after 2nd song *We Praise Him*)

A. Ash Wednesday is today - its starts 40 days of fasting & *the Lent season* (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. Its name is from the practice of placing ashes (from Palm branches) on the forehead as a *celebration and reminder of human mortality*, and as a sign of *mourning and repentance* to God.

1. Similar to *sackcloth and ashes* in the OT.
2. It's a day to *reflect* on the state of your heart and mind. A day to *take stock* of your relationship w/God & to accept the *grace* that He freely offers
 - a) What do you need to *confess* with this *ash-laden* season of your life?
3. Remember, it starts with ash Wed, but ends with *resurrection!*

B. "*Remember that you come from dust and that to dust you will return.*"

C. Custom of ashes on the head is attributed to *Pope Gregory I the Great* (circa 540-604)

II. Slide1-3 Announce: Retreat. Eggs. Serve.

A. Prayer: Our dear friend Zack Zarate, who has been fighting covid since Christmas, went to be with Jesus yesterday. Zack has been serving with CK for **over 15 years**. He's been a classroom teacher, on the leadership team, was a camp counselor, and recently did check-in in the office. He also has been part of the team that goes to Peru to minister to the children through our VBS program. *Zack will be missed.*

1. Liz, Grace & Rita, Nick & Zack IV.

III. Slide4 Intro: Want To Get Away?

A. Quick Snapshot: David complains about his *enemies in general* in this *personal lament*, and about a *specific enemy* who he thought was his friend.

1. Then he expresses confidence of *being delivered from his enemies and then, their destruction*, and resolves with *putting his trust in the Lord*.

B. I think David went from singing, *I just can't wait to be king* (Simba - lion king) to singing, *It's not easy to be me* (five for fighting - Superman). [*I'm only a man in a funny red sheet. And it's not easy. It's not easy. to be me*]

1. With **privileges**, come **great burdens** and **responsibilities**.
2. God's enemies, became David's enemies. *Leadership is not easy.*

C. **Slide5 Title:** *Want To Get Away?* (remember the old SW commercials?)

D. **Slide6 G. Campbell Morgan**, "*Fear leads only to desire to flee. Fury only emphasizes the consciousness of the wrong. Faith alone creates courage.*"

1. So we'll take Morgan's outline: **Fear. Fury. Faith.**

IV. **Slide7a FEAR (1-8) Read 1-8**

A. **Slide7b** Whether it was *troubles around him* (1-3) or *terrors within him* (9-15), or *treachery next to him* (12-15,21) ... it all just made David *want to get away*.

1. It's comforting to know spiritual giants also had this urge. **Elijah** succumbed to it (1 Kgs.19:3). **Jeremiah** withstood it (Jer.9:2, 10:19).¹

B. (3) Tonight, **how loud is the noise of of the enemy in your ears?**

C. (6) **Fly away. Get away from it all. Escaping. Packing our bags** (like lil children packing suitcase to run away). *I've had enough I just can't take it anymore. All of these emotions are normal but not great solutions to our problems.* Because we usually take our problems with us.

1. So many songs written about these feelings: Steve Miller Band, *I want to fly like an eagle To the sea. Fly like an eagle Let my spirit carry me.*
Twisted Sister, *We're not going to take it anymore.*

D. **Slide7c** David wanted *wings like a dove* so he could *fly away from the storm*. But what he really needed were *wings like an eagle* so he could *fly above the storm*.²

1. Is.40:31 ***they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles.***

¹ Derek Kidner, Psalms 1-72, pg. 200.

² Warren Wiersbe, With The Word, Ps.55.

2. Remember, you cannot fly beyond the storm, because you will find problems everywhere. But you can fly above the storm.
3. God permits the burdens you face today, to help you *win your wings*. Claim your wings from Him today.
 - a) How? Well, when you *call on the Lord* (16), and you *cast your burdens on the Lord* (22), He enables you to *overcome*.

V. Slide8a FURY (9-15) Read 9-15

- A. (9-11) These 7 sins seem to be *personified* as *walking on the walls* and *in the streets* of the city (*marketplace*).
- B. (12-15) Absalom's rebellion or Ahithopheld treason? We don't know. But the name doesn't matter, the description does.
 1. It is trials when someone you really love the trays you. Realize *it takes a diamond to get a diamond*. And sometimes our friends can hurt us deeply. And we can deeply hurt them.
- C. (15) *let them go down to sheol alive* - (sometimes grave, death, hell) David wants his enemy to *not just* experience death, *but the pain of the evil they have inflicted*. He wants them to *live where only death resides*.
 1. Now compare David's cry here to the Lord's cry in Mk.14:20,21 (last supper) *It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.*
- D. Slide8b (17) *Evening and morning and at noon* - all day. (their day starts at evening)
- E. *Is all fury wrong?* (no, *Russ/Ukr*) In our **fury**, we satisfy it *either* in our own strength (yell, scream, Lawyers, etc.) *or*, we have **God** handle it.

VI. Slide9a FAITH (16-23) Read 16-23

- A. (16) *But I call to God* - the wind that blows down everything, lifts up the eagle.

B. (22) **Cast your burden** - Hebrew word for *burden* means literally, *what He has giving you*. The thought seems to be, *take back to God, and cast upon him the burden He has laid upon you, and He will sustain you under it. For he is giving it to you to bring you to Himself.*³

1. **Read** Ps.107:23-30.

C. **Cast your burdens on the Lord** - *oh, so Christians do have burdens?* It's the burdens that the Lord allows each one of us to bear.

1. Know that are not accidents **but** appointments.

2. **Rather than** wait for God to take the initiative & remove those **burdens** troubling our hearts, **we are to take responsibility of casting our burdens/anxiety upon Him.**

3. **Throw yourself on the mercy and care of God.**

4. This is a decisive action on **our part**. **It is neither passive or partial.**

a) **Illust:** When I'm in the airport terminal I always have a heavy backpack (Camera Gear). When I step onto a moving sidewalk I have a **choice**: I can continue to carry the weight, **or** place my heavy backpack at my feet **and** let it carry both **me and my backpack**. Your choice!

b) **Slide9b Casting all your anxieties on him, because He cares for you.** 1 Pet.5:7

c) Whether you **worry or** don't worry, have **anxiety or** don't, hold onto your **burdens or** cast them off, it is **the Lord** who must **Care** for you.

(1) **Jesus is willing to be fully responsible for the things we are anxious/worried/burden about.**

D. (23) **But I trust in You** - the **I** is emphatic. **David's choice has been made. No longer is he preoccupied by his enemy.** There are only 2 parties involved, **not 3, David and his God.**

³ Search the Scriptures, Alan Stibbs, pg.240.

E. Slide9c David taught us in times a trial we can take 1 of 3 approaches: We can flee (1-8). We can fight (9-15). We can fly above our trials (16-23).

F. David looked at his: Feelings (1-8), and his Foes (9-15), but then he focused on his Faith *in the Lord*.

G. This song relates to Jesus in many ways, here are 3:

1. Jesus was the one hated without cause.
In anger they bear a grudge against me. (3)
2. Jesus was the one who could have escaped His troubles, *but did not*.
Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. (6)
3. Jesus is the one betrayed by His companion. *Judas*
My companion and my familiar friend. (13)

H. Keywords: death, deliverance, faith, fear.